

# Historic Towns & Villages

# Yardley Gobion

## A Small Village with a Big Heart



Hidden away in this village from early in the 19th century to early in the 20th century was accommodation for up to 200 people who had fallen upon hard times from 14 villages in the locality which all made a financial contribution.

It seems strange that the nearby towns of Wolverton or Stony Stratford were not chosen but the Duke of Grafton, at that time living nearby at Wakefield Lodge, was insistent that this Union Workhouse should be in the centre of the areas where he had land holdings and although called the Potterspury Union Workhouse it was situated in Yardley Gobion, then part of the Parish of Potterspury.

The Duke of Grafton had a seat built around the large elm tree on Elm Green where tramps would wait until the specified time when they were allowed to enter for a bed and a meal, to leave again next morning after the stipulated amount of work.

The children were initially educated in the Workhouse but towards the 20th century a doorway was cut in the wall between the workhouse and the school yard, the village children then mixed with the workhouse children for the first time.